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New study praises value of Fol Act

A group called Campaign for Political Rights has released a study listing more than 500 examples of how journalists and others have used the Freedom of Information Act in a positive manner.

The study, entitled *Former Secrets: Government Records Made Public Through the Freedom of Information Act*, is 180 pages and includes an assortment of examples of information disclosures under the act.

The study, in one instance, details how in August and September of 1981, the *Louisville Courier-Journal* published a series of articles based on findings from government records that manufacturers were dumping hazardous chemicals into the Ohio River, a source for drinking water. A month later, the county issued orders to 46 companies to cease sewage violations.

The study also tells of how military veterans obtained details of Agent Orange testing during the Vietnam War which resulted in a January 1982 article in the *New York Times*.

"Former Secrets demonstrates once and for all that any attempt to choke the public access to agency records ignores the mandate of the American people for open government," said Peggy Shaker, executive director of the Campaign for Political Rights.

Campaign for Political Rights is a group that encourages use and support of the Freedom of Information Act.